Pope Farm Nursery Utilities Upgrade -- No. 058707

Category	**M-NCPPC**	Date Last Modified	**October 27, 2005**
Agency	**M-NCPPC**	Previous PDF Page Number	**NONE**
Planning Area	**Gaithersburg Vicinity**	Required Adequate Public Facility	**NO**
Relocation Impact	**None.**		

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE ($000)

Cost Element	Total	Thru FY05	Est. FY06	Total 6 Years	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design and Supervision	303	0	91	212	120	92	0	0	0	0	0
Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Site Improvements and Utilities	1,240	0	0	1,240	538	702	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,543	0	91	1,452	658	794	0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING SCHEDULE ($000)

G.O. Bonds	1,543	0	91	1,452	658	794	0	0	0	0	0

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT ($000)

Energy				3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Program-Staff				-108	0	-22	-43	-43	0	0	0
Net Impact				-105	0	-21	-42	-42	0	0	0
Workyears				-3.0	0.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

DESCRIPTION

This project provides a new water line, sewer line, and drip irrigation system to serve the facilities at Pope Farm Nursery, located in the Rock Creek Stream Valley, at 7400 Airpark Road in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The site includes 60 acres in nursery production, an office building, five heater greenhouses, four over-wintering houses, three equipment storage buildings, a farmhouse, and historic cemetery. The Pope Farm Nursery, established in 1974, provides high quality herbaceous and woody plants in support of the development, maintenance, beautification and conservation of over 30,000 acres of Montgomery County parkland. The facility supplies the majority of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and interior plants for the park system. Current plant production provides for new park installation and after-care, rehabilitation of older parks, environmental restoration, reforestation and production for park enterprise facilities and public gardens.

JUSTIFICATION

The two-inch water line that serves the entire facility is undersized, unreliable, and subject to numerous leaks. The upgraded water line will make water service to the site more reliable, permit expansion of production, and comply with fire codes for safety and fire suppression. Installation of an irrigation system permits more efficient use of water and staff resources, reduces loss of tree and plant inventory, complies with stormwater pollution prevention guidelines for facility and operational efficiency, and facilitates increased production as the parks system matures and expands. The old non-expandable septic system that serves the facility is too close to the stream and wetlands.

Currently, water is stored in a 650-gallon tank that is towed to the field where trees are to be irrigated. The water supply to the 650 gallon storage tank originates in the well or from the two-inch water line. The tank is attached to a farm tractor by a draw bar and driven to the field. It may take up to two hours to fill the 650-gallon tank depending on the water pressure at the well, or the constantly fluctuating pressure in the two-inch line. The change of pressure in the two-inch line is a function of the re-occuring leaks in it. Once the irrigation water has arrived by tractor to the field where it is to be applied, it has to be manually added to commercially plastic bags attached to each tree. A small engine mounted on the platform of the 650-gallon tank supplies the force to generate the water pressure and a garden hose serves as a conduit for the water. The bags receiving the irrigation allow the water to permeate into the soil from holes in the bottom of the container. Another method of delivery to plants without a plastic bag is to apply the water manually with the garden hose to the root zone of the plant. Pope Farm has over 8,000 established trees in the nursery that need water on a regular basis to survive and grow. The current irrigation method is inefficient and inadequate.

Plans and Studies

Upper Rock Creek Area Master Plan, 1985.

Cost Change

Cost increase due to inflation.

STATUS

Final design stage.

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA

Date First Appropriation	FY05	($000)
Initial Cost Estimate		1,506
First Cost Estimate Current Scope	FY05	1,506
Last FY's Cost Estimate		1,506
Present Cost Estimate		1,543
Appropriation Request	FY07	1,406
Appropriation Req. Est.	FY08	0
Supplemental Appropriation Request	FY06	0
Transfer		0
Cumulative Appropriation		137
Expenditures/ Encumbrances		0
Unencumbered Balance		137
Partial Closeout Thru	FY04	0
New Partial Closeout	FY05	0
Total Partial Closeout		0

COORDINATION

Facility Planning: Non-Local Parks PDF 958776

MAP